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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 12 No. 5 Latin America November 1949

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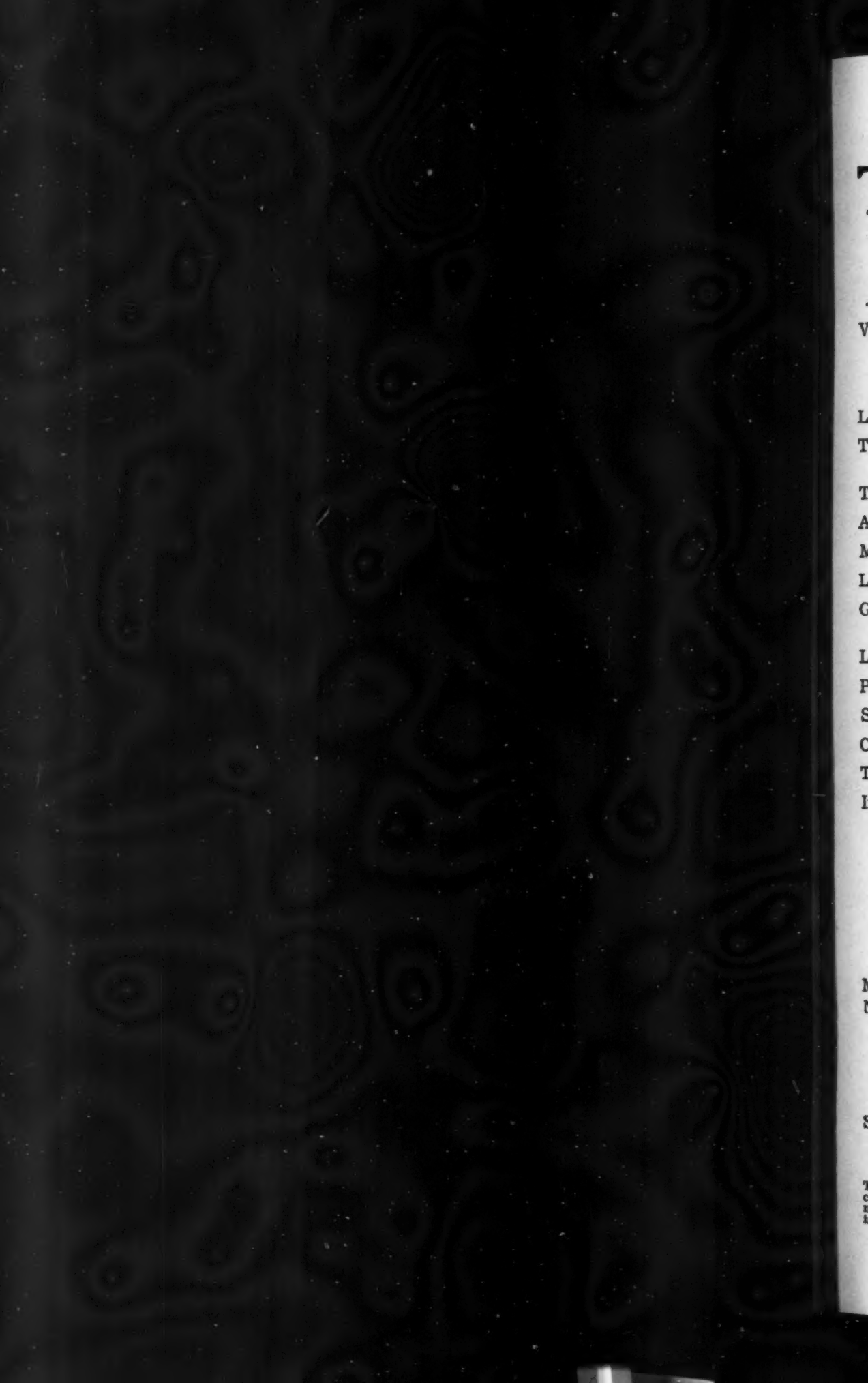


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# THE BULLETIN

of the

## LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 12

Number 5

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# LIBRARY SERVICES IN LATIN AMERICA

MARGARET M. HERDMAN

Professor L. S. U. Library School

THE journey to South America began on January 28th with a trip on an early morning bus to Moisant Air Field, New Orleans and ended June 7th when an evening Greyhound returned to Baton Rouge. The interim was spent in a fascinating journey starting with Caracas, Venezuela proceeding down the east coast of South America to Buenos Aires, crossing over to Santiago, Chile and returning by the west coast, through Central America and Mexico.

The capital cities of all South American countries were visited except British, Dutch and French Guiana and Paraguay and, of Central America, except Honduras. In Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico, other cities were visited as well. In all of the cities the libraries, universities, museums, theatres, federal and municipal buildings and some of the schools were visited as well as many other places of significant interest. To describe all of these and to recount the interesting events and cordial hospitality which were experienced every where would be impossible in any brief account. It is intended only to summarize,\* here the pattern of library service, as observed in Latin American countries.\*

The national libraries of these countries with a few exceptions are giving municipal library service only to the capital cities of the respective countries, and their collections are in most cases too limited to give other service. The exceptions are to be found in Montevideo, Uruguay and Santiago, Chile though the National Libraries at Rio de Janeiro and at Buenos Aires have large collections. In Uruguay the national library sends

collections of 1,000 books to small communities whose officials request aid in organizing municipal libraries. This national library prints its own catalog cards and plans to develop a printed card service for other libraries of the country. It has a definite extension department with funds to operate but, up to the present, no staff. In Chile the librarian of the national library is the administrative head of some six-hundred small municipal and popular libraries throughout the country which are aided to some extent by gifts of books. The museums and archives of the country are also under his direction.

The national libraries at Lima, Peru and Bogota, Columbia have quite modern children's rooms and the one at Lima circulates books to children though it does not circulate to adults. There is also a children's department in the national library of Chile. One finds small collections of books for children in other national libraries shelved in spaces not otherwise in use. In Guatemala there is a small collection of paper cartoon books with a few other titles in a single book case.

At Caracas, Venezuela; Santiago, Chile and Bogota, Columbia, there is circulation to adults from special circulating departments having limited collections of books. At San Salvador, El Salvador any books of the general collection can be circulated under certain circumstances with the approval of the librarian. The national library of Chile is departmentalized by the country of publication, but only the Chilean department has constant use. A large proportion of the service of all the national libraries is to students who are studying their lessons; and other than the exceptions described, the use of books is limited to use in the library. However, in San

\*This summary is based on detailed notes made during the time the libraries were visited; and on firsthand information of holdings, use staff and buildings.

Salvador where books are circulated outside the library, in the month of March only 101 were circulated whereas over 9,000 were used in the library. This is an indication of what is true in a vast number of cases: conditions for reading and studying are more convenient and comfortable in the libraries than elsewhere.

In most instances the law of the country provides that from one to several copies of books (five in Chile) published in the country shall be deposited in the national library, but more often than not the law does not operate effectively. The exception is the national library of Argentina which is so crowded that stacks are provided in upper tiers and the space that should be used for aisles.

The national library of Peru and the national library of Columbia are in new buildings. The one in Bogata, Columbia is quite modern, four stories high and built around an open court. The one in Lima is two stories high and covers a block. (See illustration, next page.) It is a beautiful building harmonizing with the Spanish colonial type of architecture, though as the librarian said, the interior is more adapted to a museum than a library. The national library of Uruguay is constructing a new building, about half completed; and in Argentina and El Salvador they have the sites, and in Guatemala the plans, for new national library buildings.

Municipal libraries are found in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Columbia and Mexico. There is a municipal children's library in Guatemala City and a municipal reference library in Lima, Peru. There are modern municipal libraries, such as we are familiar with, in Sao Paulo and Petropolis and elsewhere in Brazil but not in Rio de Janeiro. The municipal library in Rio de Janeiro, as they recognize themselves, would be adequate only for a very small community. However, it

provides all services, including children's service, within the library and circulates books for home reading. The municipal libraries in Brazil are under the department or division of culture of the local government as are also museums, education and health.

In Uruguay also the municipal libraries are under the division of culture of the local government which includes art and museums but not education and health. These municipal libraries are small community institutions and in Montevideo are being developed under a library commission which is responsible for personnel and book purchases and which plans to provide central cataloging. There are nineteen of these community municipal libraries at present, as well as a special children's library in a park especially devoted to the recreation of children. This children's library is named for Maria Stagnaro de Munar, the first woman teacher in Montevideo who was also instrumental in founding this library.

The municipal children's library in Guatemala City is also in a children's recreation park. It is in an adequate very modern building with modernistic furniture and a fairly adequate book collection.

Municipal libraries in Argentina are on the whole unimportant even though there exists a Consejo Nacional de Biblioteca formed by Sarmiento in 1870, which provides that this commission shall match a contribution of any local group, of 100 to 1,000 pesos for books. The municipal libraries in Buenos Aires were provided for by law in 1944. They are quite similar to and as unimportant as the libraries found in the arrondissement in Paris, France. There are in Buenos Aires, however, many collections of good up-to-date books in society, organization, and proprietary libraries which are for the use of the public but within the library only.



National Library, Lima, Peru

There are many libraries like these throughout the country. An honorary commission was organized in 1924 to administer them.

Mexico has provided for the organization of municipal libraries under the Departamento—Central Departamento des Bibliotecas, with central purchasing and cataloging of books, but for a period of five years or more few books have been purchased. The Biblioteca Cervantes is one of these municipal libraries in Mexico City. It is an attractive library and the original collection of books was good. The library is crowded every day, but with students studying their lessons, and sometimes from their own books.

In Bogota, Columbia is a Consejo Municipal somewhat similar to the library commission in Montevideo, Uruguay, but apparently not as active. It does not circulate books from the main library but it does from the two branches from which service to children is also given.

In Cusco, Peru there is a little municipal library of only 2,000 volumes in a two room building of its own

built in the courtyard around which are the municipal offices. In Quito, Ecuador is also a small municipal library, though larger than the one in Cusco, and apparently growing for it was being moved to other larger renovated quarters in the municipal building where it is located. These libraries however, do not circulate books, nor are they a part of any general plan to provide public library service in each of these countries.

There are two municipal libraries of those visited which should be spoken of especially. They measure up very well by modern library standards of building, organization and book collection. These are the Biblioteca Municipal of Sao Paulo, Brazil and the Biblioteca Municipal of La Paz, Bolivia. They each circulate books outside the library—in Sao Paulo from a separate department and collection. They each have a children's service, reference service, periodical room and a lecture room. In Sao Paulo the service to children is provided by two children's branches, one in an old established residential section and the other in



an industrial-residential section. In the municipal library in Sao Paulo there is also an art department, a map and rare books department, and film department. Sao Paulo is at present preparing to open three general branches and La Paz has eight branches already functioning. The building of the Sao Paulo library is a large very interesting modernistic building (see illustration; that of La Paz is new but a smaller four story building, more conservative in type. The administration of the Sao Paulo library is quite decentralized while that of La Paz is completely centralized, with a union catalog and all books bought through one department and cataloged at headquarters. This library is under the Concejo Municipal de la Paz.

A third public library, autonomous rather than municipal, which should be mentioned especially, is the Biblioteca Mexico in Mexico City. It is ade-

quate in size and conception considering the provision for municipal libraries in Mexico City but it is in an old building which still needs much renovation. Its collection of modern books, and funds for buying them, are both still too limited, of which they are themselves aware. This library has an especially well equipped film laboratory.

One finds school libraries in all of the countries, but in Uruguay and Mexico administrative provision has been made for the organization of school libraries by the organization of a library division in the department of secondary education in Uruguay, and in education, in Mexico. This department in each country is responsible for the purchase of books and for the preparation of catalog cards. This department is new in Uruguay and is now actively functioning. In Mexico it has existed for a considerable time and is not very effective at present.

In addition to this service for the schools in Uruguay there is also a central library called Biblioteca Central, Escuelos Secundario, for use of secondary school teachers and those studying to become teachers. In Argentina there is a similar library for elementary school teachers. It is called Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros de Consejo Nacional de Educacion. This library is well used and I understand that it is well supported. In connection with it is a separate section for school children.

In the Instituto Pedagogico, Santiago, Chile is one of the most actively used student's libraries visited. This is the library for literature, English and general reference books. It is in very crowded quarters, but last year it circulated about ten books per student for home use. These students were of course prospective teachers.

There are also found congressional libraries and government department



Biblioteca Municipal,  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

libraries in the countries visited. The congressional libraries which are organized and actively functioning are in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Mexico. In Uruguay, Argentina and Chile the congressional libraries have especially well developed legislative reference services of research, abstracting, special indexing of legislation in other countries and pertinent periodical articles, and bibliographic service. They issue publications each year printed in their own printing departments. In Argentina publications are issued summarizing the development and the legislative history in other countries of projects up for congressional discussion in Argentina. The Biblioteca del Congreso of Chile is probably the best organized of these libraries.

Of the government libraries there is an outstanding example in Mexico: the well organized, well selected economics and financial library connected with the Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico described further under the special library group. In Sao Paulo is the library of the government department of Animal Industry. It is well organized and quite large for such a library. It has considerable material from the States, but it did not seem to be very actively used.

In all of the countries, there are collections of books in connection with the various university faculties which are separate and in many cases autonomous. These vary from collections entirely inadequate in number and quality to well organized collections supplying most of the needs of the students as those in the Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Fisicas y Naturales Universidad de Buenos Aires; the Biblioteca Central de Universidad de San Marcos, Peru; the central library of the University of Chile, and in a number of medical faculties, especially those in Lima, Peru and Montevideo, Uruguay and the law faculty

in Mexico City. The library of the medical faculty in the University of Guatemala is well organized but very limited as to material. This is true also of the library of the humanities faculty in the University of Guatemala. (In Caracas, Venezuela the national library serves the university primarily, as also does the national library in San Salvador, El Salvador.)

None of these libraries provides the book services to students provided by the large North American university library but those mentioned give reference service, reserve book service, and general circulation service. This last service is used less frequently than it is in North American university libraries. The libraries are also developing film laboratories. The library of the science faculty in Argentina has an especially well equipped film laboratory.

The central libraries of the University of Chile and the University of Mexico have union catalogs of all university holdings (with exceptions of occasional departments which will not cooperate) as has also the Instituto Bibliotecologico of the Universidad de Buenos Aires. These libraries also have fairly complete collections on library economy, mainly in English. In Chile and Mexico the cards are made for books ordered through the central library. Departments are supposed to make cards for the central library for books which the departments order directly.

In Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Columbia, Costa Rica, and Mexico one finds useful special libraries. There are a number of outstanding examples in Brazil. The library of the federal education department in Rio de Janeiro has a limited collection of books but is housed in one of the floors of Niemeyer's modernistic building. In the construction of the library's quarters and its equipment curves have been

employed as frequently as straight lines, even in the construction of the charging desk and the catalog case. In Sao Paulo, is the library of Butantan Institute which contains the most complete collection of material—books, pamphlets and periodicals—to be found any where on snake poisons and anti-toxins. It is a very well organized library as well. Also in Sao Paulo is the Biblioteca Ambulante of S. E. S. I.—Service Social da Industria—which is an organization of industries for the benefit of employer and employee. The library sends deposit libraries in book trucks to member industries.

In Montevideo, Uruguay is the library of the "Universidad del Trabajo del Uruguay" of which there are others throughout Uruguay. This is in reality a vocational trade school. Many publications are printed in its printing department and distributed by the library.

In Buenos Aires there are many special libraries in many fields—art, drama, literature, journalism, etc. A most unusual one is that of the Caja Nacional de Ahorro Postal (the postal savings bank), which has ample funds for maintaining and administering the library. This library gives reference service to the administrative staff and personnel of the bank but its most important feature is a general service to the depositors of the bank of which there are 6,000,000 and particularly to the school children. This service is of books, films, records, pictures, etc. (see illustration). The library of La Prensa in Buenos Aires is a good newspaper library open to the public. A very important special library service is that of the Universidad de Buenos Aires del Instituto Bibliotecologico. It is concerned with the development of the fundamental body of knowledge which is the basis of librarianship, and as particularly adapted to Argentine and Latin Amer-

ican libraries. It has occupied itself, and is still occupied with five projects:

1. A union catalog of the University of Buenos Aires libraries and the national library of Argentina (over a million volumes).
2. Comparison of filing rules: Vatican, A. L. A., Cincinnati, Illinois, Pittsburgh, National Library of Argentina and the German.
3. Comparison of cataloging rules: A. L. A., Vatican, National Library of Argentina, the Spanish and the German.
4. Translation and integration of the Dewey and Bruxelles schemes in the 000 section.
5. Translation of the A. L. A. Glossary of library terms. It is also publishing this fall a translation of Sear's List of Subject Headings, and one of Mann's text on Classification, soon.

In Santiago, Chile is the Biblioteca del Escuela de Salubridad which is a well-organized library with a good basic collection, particularly of peri-



Biblioteca, Caja Nacional de Ahorro Postal



odicals, all of which is circulated.

In Bogata, Colombia, the Biblioteca del Banco de la Republica has a good general collection of books and periodicals for the use of the general public housed in quarters the equal of the best bank library anywhere. The library is well organized and classified and cataloged but the books do not circulate.

At the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba, Costa Rica is a small but well selected collection of books with an equal number of pamphlets and about half as many periodicals on the subjects with which the Institute is concerned. It has been recognized as the best special library in Latin America for its purpose, with the exception of the library of the Agricultural Institute in Mexico City administered by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In Mexico City one also finds special libraries and three should be mentioned. The Biblioteca y Archivos Economicos de la Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico is a fairly comprehensive and up-to-date collection, classified and cataloged and housed in the beautiful old chapel of Carlotta Maximillian; the Biblioteca de Museo Nacional which is an important anthropological collection, well organized and fairly up-to-date; and the Hemeroteca Nacional de Mexico which is a central collection of periodicals and newspapers which were once in the national library. This collection is now housed in a building which was built as a church and which has been used as an important public meeting place, the scene of many important public discussions and the signing of the constitution of the Republic of Mexico.

From Caracas down the east coast of South America to Buenos Aires, where libraries are classified the Dewey Classification seems to be

used, but from Buenos Aires up the west coast, through Central America, and Mexico City there is much discussion as to whether to use the Dewey or the Brussel's scheme. In two libraries in different places, the Library of Congress scheme is being used, but this scheme is not under discussion. The factors which influence the various points of view seem to be several as usual. One which strongly influences the protagonists of the Brussels is that it comes from Europe. The discussion seems least concerned with the relative usefulness of the two schemes in making books easily available to the reader. In Argentina, independence of thought provides almost as many different schemes as there are libraries. One suspects that a part of the importance associated with this discussion comes from the intrinsic interest of the protagonists of the different points of view in the problems of classification, not in making books available to readers.

It is probably of interest to mention here that library schools with full curricula are to be found in Brazil (four or five), Uruguay, Argentina (two), Peru, and Mexico. Institutes and short courses have been held at different times and in different places, and this last summer, in Panama.

Before completing this brief account something should be said about the libraries of the cultural divisions of the American embassies and the cultural institutes found in the countries visited with the exception of San Salvador, and the three separately organized libraries in Montevideo, Uruguay; Managua, Nicaragua; and Mexico City. The libraries found in the cultural divisions or cultural institutes, are circulating libraries organized and administered like small special libraries for the purpose of presenting a picture of the culture of the country to the visiting foreigner, and of the United States of North



America to the nationals. The books are primarily in English. These libraries vary; the larger ones are found in connection with the cultural institutes which originated as joint projects of the country and the United States and in them are held classes in English and sometimes Spanish. The largest one of the institutes and also of these libraries is in Sao Paulo Brazil.

Of the three separate libraries: in Montevideo, the Biblioteca Artigas-Washington; in Managua, the Biblioteca Americana; and in Mexico City, the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin, the latter is naturally the larger. It and the Biblioteca Artigas-Washington have emphasized the information service of the library more than the Biblioteca Americana in Managua. Each library, however, is organized and administered like a typical small public library and gives all the services which would be expected of such a library. These libraries are much appreciated by the citizens of the communities which is evidenced by the records of use. Because the American library in Managua is the only effective library in the city, it has a great use by children and young people, and much the largest record for all circulation.

Probably the greatest wealth of actively-used up-to-date library materials is found in Buenos Aires but there is no uniformity here of organization nor administration; in fact there is the greatest individualistic diversity. The library is considered more as a source of reference information than

as a popular source of general educational and recreational reading. There are, however, some 1600 popular libraries\* throughout Argentina a few of which are municipal. Some of these libraries are very good, some are poor.

In Brazil, in Sao Paulo particularly, the municipal library is having a development similar to that of libraries in the United States in the eighteenthundreds during the period of great industrial development, with emphasis on uniformity and efficiency in methods of organization and administration.

The same might be said for Uruguay. The movement there, however, is more recent. It is also possibly more coordinated among all types of library service. In 1943 the "Guia das Bibliotecas des Brazil" listed 2,452 libraries: 1,397 wholly and semi-public, 855 private and 200 municipal. Some of these are excellent libraries. In Uruguay there are some 1,000\*\* libraries of all types, and Uruguay has about one-fortieth the area and one-fifteenth the population of Brazil.

In Mexico, there is probably the best governmental organization of libraries provided for under three departments: the Central Department for Public Libraries, the Department of Education for school libraries, and the Department of University Libraries. Unfortunately the National Library is placed under the University. In Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, and Columbia the national library is under the Department of Education, in Uruguay,

\*Fino, Jose F. Prof., Escuela de Servicio Social Cruse de Bibliotecologia, Buenos Aires.

\*\*See Gropp, Arthur E. A. Portrait of Libraries in Uruguay, p. 159.

under the Ministry of Justice and Public Instruction, and in Chile it is autonomous.

There is also much wealth of material in Mexico with a recognition of the many varied uses of libraries, but sustained development is interrupted by the continual political changes and the failure of funds set aside for buying books and the administration of libraries to be used

for those purposes.

As was stated in the beginning this account is not a complete picture of libraries in Latin American countries; it gives only the pattern of the library services found there. The development of these services was made possible by the loyal intelligence and work of few individuals who for the immediate past have been professional librarians.

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## THE LIBRARY OF THE NATIONAL POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, BUENOS AIRES.

CARLOS VICTOR PENNA, Librarian

Translated by

Pedro Zamora, Student, L. S. U. Library School, 1948-49

The National Postal Savings Bank of the Republic of Argentina, is an institution designated to educate all the sectors of the population in the principles of saving. It occupies a new and spacious building in the city of Buenos Aires, in which are registered the accounts of more than 6,000,000 persons with a total deposit of one thousand million pesos. To further the accomplishment of its purpose it was considered necessary to organize a library with adequate resources and facilities for service.

In the campaign for extension of savings which the Savings Bank is carrying on through the primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions, the service of the library with its general collection on many subjects is very important to students.

There are two functions of the library of the Savings Bank: the service to officers and employees of the institution; and the service to the

primary and secondary schools and to their teachers and professors. For that reason, the library collection has been organized with the purpose of being able to offer the reader the adequate book according to his needs in the least possible time; and to afford him, also, adequate facilities, cordial service and comfortable provision for his studies.

The book collection has been selected considering the two objectives noted. Accordingly there has been gathered a collection of books on subjects in general, that correspond to the subjects of instruction of the different schools, which provides the student with a wide selection of material for his investigations and study. Likewise, the books about saving, planning, and other activities of the savings bank, are adequately represented on the shelves.

The library has not yet reached, however, important figures in the number of books (it was organized

just recently), but its 10,050 titles (13,380 volumes) are completely classified and cataloged and it is receiving regularly 200 periodical publications.

In the cataloging of this collection of books similar practices to those of North American libraries have been followed. The cataloging rules of the Vatican Library have been used and the Brussels Decimal Classification, Cutter's Tables and a translation of Sears Subject Headings. For the alphabetical filing of the catalog cards, the instructions of the A. L. A. "Catalog rules for filing catalog cards" were followed.

From this it can be seen that the library has adopted the dictionary catalog and we believe that this is the first experience of this type of catalog in our libraries. This will be supplemented by an auxiliary systematic catalog of the books which are concerned with savings and the other activities of the Savings Bank. Meanwhile, the shelf list performs this function. The decision to make a systematic index is the result of the



Biblioteca, Caja Nacional de Ahorro Postal

preference of Argentinian scholars for this type of catalog to the dictionary catalog.

The service that the library staff offers is that of assistance and orientation. Besides the catalog and general collection of books there is a well selected collection of reference books in which are represented most of the encyclopedias, dictionaries, guides, etc. (See illustration).

Lending outside the library is to the employees of the institution only. For other readers the service is in the library only.

The materials of the audio-visual collection are being developed, and presently there will be a full collection of records, with equipment for playing them; (see illustration, p 152) also a film collection, and a vertical file in which are deposited illustrations, articles of temporary interest, etc. There is also a collection of slides related almost entirely to savings subjects.

As an element of publicity for its services, the library has space in the magazine "Ahorro" (Save), in which can be found articles describing its activities. It also edits a monthly bulletin entitled "Informacion Bibliografica" (Bibliographic Information) and publishes leaflets describing its services which are put in the educational institutions. In addition, the fact that the Bank has an adequate lecture room with a capacity of 300 persons, will permit the library to hold record concerts, conferences, etc., which will result in increasing the general knowledge of its activities.

The library was opened the 5th of April of the present year, and it is interesting to note that in nine months of work the books had been selected, cataloged and made ready for consultation, and the space furnished for such activities. This has been possible because of the quality

and preparation of its personnel, most of whom are from the Library School in Buenos Aires. There is a total of 14 persons on the library staff, including those doing administrative work, one translator and a curator of the museum of the institution.

The monthly record of readers has reached 2,500 with a total of 3,200 books consulted. These figures are not definitive, for the reason that the Library initiated its services only recently, and because the quality of the collection and the means of publicity promised assure the raising of the figures in a substantial way.

This is only an outline of the principle features and characteristics of the Library of the National Postal Savings Bank, with its special service to the schools which feature caught the attention of Miss Herdman and her interest in publishing this article.



Biblioteca, Caja Nacional de Ahorro Postal

## TULANE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

A collection of original and carbon manuscripts, representing a large portion of material the late Roark Bradford wrote in his lifetime, has been presented Tulane by his widow, Mrs. Roark Bradford of New Orleans.

The collection was received in behalf of the university by Dr. Garland F. Taylor, librarian of the Howard-Tilton Memorial library at Tulane, and Dean Roger P. McCutcheon of the Tulane graduate school and personal friend of the New Orleans author.

Bradford died in New Orleans, Nov. 13, 1946. His works, which will be available to qualified investigators for research and study, will be added to the archives collection of the library. Dr. Taylor says that this collection already contains literary manuscripts of George Washington Cable, Lyle Saxon, Harnett T. Kane and

other Southern writers.

Included in the Bradford collection are more than 70 typescripts, with original corrections by the author; several poems; Bradford's script of Marc Connelly's "Green Pastures", dramatized version of one of Bradford's works; "The Three-headed Angel"; the script of "John Henry"; articles written for the New York Herald-Tribune, the New York Post and the New Orleans Times-Picayune musical scores by Paul Robeson and Co. for "John Henry"; pencil and ink illustrations; an album of pictures; a typescript of a thesis written by Rupert Richardson of the University of Texas, including carbons of two letters Bradford wrote to the student telling quite clearly what the New Orleans author thought about writing and writers; and other materials.



## A PORTRAIT OF LIBRARIES IN URUGUAY

ARTHUR E. GROPP

Librarian, Biblioteca Artigas-Washington, Montevideo, Uruguay

Recent up-to-date, accurate information with regard to libraries in Uruguay, is very sparse, especially that published outside of the country. Rivera's<sup>o</sup> compilation cites 32 libraries; and the 1948 *Year book*<sup>1</sup> of the James Clarke & Company, London listed only 8. However, encouraging because they are indicative of a focusing attention on the libraries of Uruguay are two compilations, one by Elvira Rodriguez<sup>2</sup> and the other by the Library School,<sup>3</sup> a dependency of the School of Economic Sciences and Business Administration of the University of Montevideo.

The Rodriguez compilation, a preliminary list, includes 237 libraries in two main groups: first the government, municipal, and private (i.e., non-government) libraries which are public; and second by the same arrangement for libraries which are only partially open to the public. This classification follows somewhat the same grouping of libraries as that used by the Instituto Nacional do Livro<sup>4</sup> for Brazilian libraries.

The compilation of the Library School, not definitive, done by the students of Unit I, class in the History of Libraries, under the direction of Marta S. de Scheiner, in charge of the class, contains 96 libraries with addresses, date of foundation, size, type of library, type of loan service, classification system used, special col-

lections, name of librarian, number of employees, and hours open for service.

Further information may be found in a very brief resume<sup>5</sup> which appears in the form of mimeographed class notes of the course on the History of libraries offered in the Library School.

Unpublished information, including that used in connection with the above mentioned *Guia de Bibliotecas de Montevideo*, issued by the students of the History of Libraries' class, mentioned above, is to be found in the files of the library school. This information in the form of term papers, describing the history, collections, and services of libraries in Uruguay, was gathered by students of the school over a 4-year period. As a consequence, the library school is in possession of the descriptions of nearly 150 of Uruguay's libraries.

Except for this unpublished information, there is relatively little written about individual libraries in Uruguay. Articles on individual libraries which have appeared, with greater frequency in recent years, are cited in the bibliography of the Library section of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*.

Some material is available on the national library.<sup>6</sup>

The Comité Bibliotecológico with headquarters in the national library has undertaken to prepare a complete list of libraries in Uruguay. It

<sup>o</sup>Rivera, R. O., comp. Preliminary list of libraries in the other American Republics. Wash. Govt. Print. Off., 1942. (Studies of the A. L. A. committee on Library cooperation with Latin America, no. 5).

<sup>1</sup>The Libraries, museums and art galleries year book, 1948. London, James Clarke & Co., (1948.)

<sup>2</sup>Rodriguez, Elvira. Guia de bibliotecas del Uruguay (trabajo preliminar). (Boletín de la Asoc. de Bibliotecarios Diplomados del Uruguay, ano 1, no. 2, p. 22-27, agosto 1948).

<sup>3</sup>Uruguay. Universidad. Facultad de Ciencias Economicas y de Administracion. Escuela de Bibliotecaria. Guia de bibliotecas de Montevideo. Montevideo, 1948. 30p. Mimeographed.

<sup>4</sup>Brazil. Instituto Nacional do Livro. Guia das bibliotecas Brasileiras; 2d ed. Rio de Janeiro. Impr. nacional, 1944. (Col. B. 2 Biblioteconomia 2).

<sup>5</sup>Curso de bibliotecnia. Montevideo, Organizacion Taquigrafica Medina (1946) v.1, p. 127-145, 173-178.

<sup>6</sup>Scarone, Arturo. La biblioteca nacional de Montevideo: resena historica con motivo del centenario de su fundacion, 1816-26 mayo-1916. Montevideo, Tall. graf. del Estado, 1916. A summary article appears in the *Boletín* of the Pan American Union (v.73, no. 10, p. 615-19, Oct. 1939). At the turn of the century, Luis Ricardo Fors wrote an article on *Las bibliotecas de Montevideo* (La Plata, Impr. y encuad. "La Popular", 1903). On the reappearance of the *Boletín* of the National Library two numbers were devoted to work and activities in the National Library (no. 1-2 Julio 1944-mayo 1945).

is estimated that an exhaustive list will total more than 1,000 libraries. Such a compilation would include government libraries, university libraries, libraries of the secondary educational system, libraries of the trade school system, libraries of the primary and normal school educational system, municipal libraries, and libraries maintained by private enterprise, such as associations, private schools, clubs, etc.

Brief references to libraries of these types, with regard to their development will follow:

*Government libraries.*—The history of all public libraries in Uruguay begins with the foundation of the national library on January 10, 1814, when Dr. Jose Manuel Perez Castellano, in his will, left his house, books, and funds for the establishment of a public library. This institution, which opened on May 26, 1816,<sup>7</sup> has remained open continuously to the public, except for short intervals during the revolutionary period. In 1885 it was annexed as a dependency of the Ministry of Justice and Public Instruction in which branch of government<sup>8</sup> it has remained to this day. On August 25, 1942, the foundation stone for a new building was laid. This building, with a capacity of 1,500,000 volumes, the first to be built for the national library, will amply house the present 300,000 volume collection. Construction is rapidly approaching termination. Until it moves to the new building the national library is quartered, as it has been since 1911, in a wing on the ground floor and in the basement of the University of Montevideo.

The collection of the national library, as in most national libraries, is general and varied. It contains a strong newspaper and periodical collection, a considerable quantity of manuscripts of its great writer, Jose

Enrique Rodo, and a large collection of national imprints, many of which were left to the library by Victor Perez Petit.

In 1943 the national library adopted the Library of Congress' classification system (in modified form) and the dictionary card catalog, utilizing them both in its reorganization scheme, to supersede the antiquated system of manuscript catalogs by author and subject. Until a new director is appointed, Dionisio Trillo Pays, interim officer appointed by the government, is in charge of the national library.

Another important government library is the congressional library, better known as the Legislative Palace Library. This library had its beginning with the Constitutional Assembly of 1828, and the adoption of the Constitution of 1830. In its beginning it consisted of two libraries functioning separately, one in the secretariat of each chamber, the House of Representatives and the Senate. In 1925 the Legislative Palace was finished and occupied. At that time the two libraries were moved to the common quarters within the building, but administratively remained separate until 1929 when they were merged into one administrative unit, headed by a combined legislative committee. This library contains approximately 100,000 v. It has a strong newspaper (its oldest newspaper dating from 1839) and periodical collection, and the laws and legislation from Uruguay and many other countries. The director of the Library is Secundino Vazquez.

Nearly every principal division of government maintains a library. A few of these are the Ministry of Foreign Relations of about 15,000 v.; the Ministry of the Interior with about 6,000 v.; the Division of Agronomy with over 3,000 v. of books and 90,000 pieces of periodical publications and pamphlets, and the General Division

<sup>7</sup>In Uruguay, May 26 is Book Day.

<sup>8</sup>Today this branch of government is known as the Ministerio de Instrucción Pública y Previsión Social.

of Statistics with approximately 9,000 v.

*University libraries.*—Higher education in Uruguay began with the foundation of the university in 1849. At that time all branches of education were administered in the university. Separate mention of the maintenance of its libraries is not made until the various schools of the university were established. The libraries which were then created remain today within the administration of the schools of the university. The libraries of the various schools are: The School of Medicine (1879) with over 110,000 v.; the School of Law and Social Sciences (1885) with over 80,000 v.; the School of Engineering (1888, then the School of Mathematics) with approximately 35,000 v.; the School of Chemistry and Pharmacy (1907, at first functioning as an institute of the School of Medicine) with nearly 25,000 v.; the School of Veterinary Science (1907) with about 4,000 v.; the School of Agronomy (1906) with over 15,000 v.; the School of Economic Sciences and Business Administration (outgrowth, 1915, of a privately established School of Commerce) with nearly 15,000 v.; the School of Architecture (1922, formerly a division of the School of Mathematics) with nearly 10,000 v.; the School of Dentistry (a separation, 1920, from the School of Medicine) with over 3,000 v.; and the School of Humanities and Sciences (1946) already with nearly 10,000 v. The University also maintains a collection of about 2,000 v. of special materials in connection with the office of the president of the university.

In addition to the libraries of the schools of the University of Montevideo just mentioned, many libraries may be found in the dependencies of these same schools, usually referred to as institutes. Some of these libraries are independent of the central library administration of each school, as for example the library of

the Electro-Technical Institute of the School of Engineering with over 500 v. and a considerable number of pamphlets and periodical publications; the library of the Tuberculosis Institute of the School of Medicine with nearly 1,000 volumes and numerous periodical publications, received in exchange for its own publication, *Hoja Tisiologica*; and the library of the Library School with over 1,000 items related to library science, and some 500 items of practice materials. On the other hand, libraries of some of the dependencies form a part of the library organization of a school of the University. The library of the Historical Institute of the School of Humanities and Sciences with nearly 1,000 v. may be cited as an example of this form of administration.

The University of Montevideo easily has a combined bookstock in the libraries of its various dependencies of over 300,000 v.

*Secondary Educational System Libraries.*—Included in this group of libraries are the central library of the system, and the libraries of the liceos (high schools) in the 19 departments of the Republic. The Central Secondary School Library, founded in 1885, now with over 60,000 v., is housed in the same building with Liceo no. 5. In this building there also function the preparatory school for the professional schools of the university and the night school. Although referred to as the Central Secondary School Library, it has not been accorded jurisdiction over the libraries of the secondary schools. Over 30 high schools are functioning in the Republic, of which nine are found in Montevideo. Many of these contain from 2,000 to 20,000 volumes. For example, the Liceo no. 4, "Zorrilla de San Martin", contains nearly 5,000 v.; the library of the Batlle Ordóñez Institute, known as the Women's University, has nearly 20,000 volumes; the Liceo in Salto, second city of Uru-



guay, has a book stock of nearly 8,000 v.; and the Liceo in Fray Bentos has a book collection of nearly 7,000 volumes.

*Trade School Libraries.*—The trade school system maintains some 12 units in addition to the central unit in Montevideo. Each trade school maintains its own library. The school in Montevideo has some 10,000 volumes, principally on mechanics, arts, trades, drawing, mathematics, physics, electricity, carpentry, etc. etc. The central library is well organized, having classified, author and title card catalogs. Its librarian is Mrs. Ofelia Fernandez de Carro.

One of the units in the interior of the country, the San Ramon Trade School (1944), has a collection of nearly 1,800 volumes

*Primary and Normal School Libraries.*—This system, similar to the secondary school system, has a central library. The Pedagogical Library was founded in 1876, and has a present book collection of over 60,000 volumes, occupying the same quarters as the Pedagogical Museum. Sections of this library are the Students' Library of the Normal School, the Library for the Blind, and Children's Library no. 1. The latter is housed in other quarters. The Pedagogical Library likewise has no jurisdiction over the school libraries, but is in a better position to influence the schools through its contact with the teachers and through a package service to the schools. The Pedagogical Library is directed by Prof. Roberto Abadie Soriano, author of a series of primary school reading texts.

In connection with the administration of primary schools throughout the Republic, the National Council of Primary and Normal School Education, has established an inspector's office in each of the 19 departments. All of these offices maintain collections of books, supplemented through the package service of the Pedago-

gical Library in Montevideo. The office in Paysandu has an excellent library, the Biblioteca Setembrino Pereda, with approximately 18,000 v.

The Children's Library no. 1, directed by Mrs. Alicia Porro de Maciel, was established in 1913 in a special effort to reach school children. This library contains some 7,500 volumes.

There are approximately 900 schools in the Republic, of which nearly 400 are reported to have libraries. These libraries are for the most part mere collections of books, ranging from a few hundred volumes to several thousand. Livia Lorenzo<sup>19</sup> in a study of some 48 school libraries in Montevideo found that the largest had 2,456 volumes, but that the majority of them had under 500 volumes.

The normal schools of the government are administered in the offices of the primary and normal school system. All of these are said to contain libraries. In Montevideo, the normal school, an institution for girls, was founded in 1882 under the initiative of Jacobo A. Varela, brother of the founder of Uruguay's present system of primary education, Jose Pedro Varela. Its library functioned until 1935 when the institution was merged with the normal institute for boys. At that time the library collection was incorporated in the Pedagogical Library of the primary and normal school system, situated on the lower floor of the Normal Institute building. However, in 1942, the library was reestablished. To date it has accumulated over 8,000 volumes of books and periodical publications.

*Municipal libraries.*—All of the larger cities, and some of the smaller cities and towns in Uruguay maintain public libraries. In Montevideo the administration of libraries is in

<sup>19</sup>Lorenzo, Livia. *Bibliotecas en las Escuelas Publicas*. 1945. MS. Thesis presented in the Library School.



the office of the Cultural Commission of the Municipality, established in 1939, now directed by Jarge Otero Mendoza. It maintains a system of 19 libraries in various parts of the city. The oldest of these, the Biblioteca "Joaquin de Salterain", founded in 1911, now housed in a new wing of the municipal palace, has a collection of some 15,000 volumes and some 13,000 pamphlets. Others of the system are: the Dr. Francisco Alberto Schinca, Library, located in the Union area, contains some 12,000 volumes; the Cerro Library, the only library of the system in a building especially constructed for library services, has over 3,000 volumes; the Art Library located in the subterranean exhibition rooms of the City has over 4,000 volumes; and the Maria Stagnero de Munar Library for children, situated in Parque Rodo in a quaint castle-like structure, has nearly 3000 volumes of books selected especially for its young readers.

In the interior of the country, mention may be made of the Paysandu Municipal Library, located in the municipal building, with nearly 10,000 volumes; the Eusebio A. Jimenez Library of Mercedes in its own building erected for the library and art gallery, with approximately 15,000 volumes; and in Fray Bentos the municipal library, maintained in the secretariat of the municipality, with some 800 volumes; and the municipal and high school library of Florida a unique type of library administration in which the city and high-school libraries have been merged into a single administrative unit, with over 20,000 volumes.

*Private libraries.*—This group embraces numerous libraries: professional associations, athletic and social clubs, banks, technical institutes, societies, private schools, libraries supported by foreign governments, etc. Outstanding among these may be mentioned the Insurance Bank Library of over 3,000 volumes; the

Ateneo de Montevideo Library, founded in 1877, in which were merged several societies dating from 1868, with approximately 20,000 volumes; the International American Institute of Child Protection, supported from funds appropriated by the American republics since its foundation in 1924, with over 18,000 volumes; the Ateneo de Salto, in Salto, founded in 1889, with about 19,000 volumes; the Brazilian-Uruguayan Cultural Institute, founded in 1939, with approximately 4,000 volumes; the Anglo-Uruguayan Cultural Institute Library, founded in 1934, with approximately 10,000 volumes; the Society of Chauffeurs (Centro Proteccion Choferes) Library founded in 1909, with nearly 12,000 volumes; Crandon Institute Library, a primary and secondary school which follows American methods of teaching, with a well organized collection of over 8,000 volumes; and the Artigas-Washington Library.

The Biblioteca Artigas-Washington was founded on August 23, 1943, as a corporate body for the purpose of maintaining and fostering close cultural relations between Uruguay and the United States. Since July 1948 it is operated as a section of the American Embassy, in the cultural and information program of the Department of State in other countries. The library now contains over 14,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, of which about 2,000 volumes are Spanish translations of American authors; a music collection of over 1,200 scores and an equal number of records; and over 5,000 pamphlets and other materials. This library has served as a model of organization in the growing movement of modern library organization and services in Uruguay.

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Since the establishment in 1943 of this country's first Library School<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup>See the author's article in Bulletin of the Louisiana Library Association, v.7, no. 2, p. 13-15, Dec. 1943.

by the Association of Engineers, a school which was incorporated in 1945 in the School of Economic Sciences and Business Administration of the University of Montevideo, there has been a firm unfolding of a modern library movement in Uruguay. Nearly 150 students have graduated from the school, many of whom are employed in prominent library systems in Montevideo. Several of these graduates subsequently continued their studies in the United States. They are: Elena Braceras, Elvira A. Lerena Martinez, Miguel Angel Pineiro, and Norah Albanell MacColl. Srta. Braceras is now in the United Nations' Library system at Lake Success, New York, and Srta. Albanell MacColl is on loan from the Biblioteca Artigas-Washington to the Pan American Union Library. Srta. Lerena Martinez is Acting Director of the Library School and Sr. Pineiro is Director of the Central Secondary School Library.

The first association of librarians of Uruguay was a natural outcome of the aforementioned formal library science instruction. Graduates of the library school on August 8, 1945, founded the Asociacion de Bibliotecarios Diplomados del Uruguay for the purpose of elevating librarianship and of fomenting the creation and organization of libraries. The Asociacion has continued to be active since its foundation. At the end of 1947 it published in mimeographed form the first number of its *Boletin*, containing articles of interest to the profession.

Comprehensive information covering libraries in the Latin American area as a unit is relatively scarce. A few of the sources are: *Libraries*,<sup>1</sup> an annual section of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*; Rivera's *Preliminary list of libraries*,<sup>2</sup> containing more than 5,000 libraries in the American Republics outside of the United States proper; and *Latin American*

*libraries*,<sup>3</sup> issued by the Pan American Union, which lists only 286 libraries based on answers received to a specially prepared questionnaire.

Available material covering geographical areas of Latin America is equally scarce. Among the more important studies are the author's *Guide to Libraries and Archives in Central America and the West Indies*,<sup>4</sup> and several articles by Peraza<sup>5</sup> covering the same area.

More prominent, however, are materials descriptive of libraries, collectively and separately, in individual Latin American countries. Of these there should be mentioned the guides of Brazil,<sup>6</sup> Cuba,<sup>7</sup> and Peru.<sup>8</sup> Information and bibliographical citations on individual libraries may be found in the annual volumes of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gropp, A. E. and Ker, Annita M. *Libraries*. (Handbook of Latin American Studies, 1938-date. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard Univ. pr.).

<sup>2</sup>Rivera, R. O. comp. *Preliminary list of libraries in the other American Republics*. Washington, Govt. Print. off., 1942. (Studies of the A. L. A. Committee on Library Cooperation with Latin America, no. 5).

<sup>3</sup>Babcock, C. E. *Latin American libraries*. Washington, 1935. (Pan American Union. Library and bibliog. ser., no. 7).

<sup>4</sup>Gropp, A. E. *Guide to the libraries and archives of Central America and the West Indies*. Panama, Bermuda and British Guiana. New Orleans, La., Tulane University, 1941. (Middle American Research Institute. Publication no. 10).

<sup>5</sup>Peraza, Fermin. *Bibliotecas del Caribe*. Habana, Ed. Anuario bibliog. cubano, 1943.

—, *Notas sobre las bibliotecas de Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, y Honduras*. Habana, Ed. Anuario bibliog. cubano, 1946.

<sup>6</sup>Brazil. Instituto nacional do livro. *Guia das bibliotecas brasileiras*; 2d. ed. Rio de Janeiro. Impr. nacional, 1944. (Col. B. 2, Biblioteconomia 2).

<sup>7</sup>Peraza, Fermin. *Directorio de bibliotecas de Cuba*. La Habana, Ed. anuario bibliog. cubano, 1946. (Biblioteca del bibliotecario, 2).

<sup>8</sup>Delgado Pastor, Amadeo. *Relacion de las bibliotecas existentes en el Peru*. (Fenix, no. 2 primer semestre, p. 384-381, 1945).

<sup>9</sup>Gropp, A. E. and Ker, Annita M. *Op. cit.*

## MUSIC CLASSIFIED INDEX

A classified index to music published and copyrighted during the last calendar year is now available. It appears as a new feature of the current issue of the *Published Music* section (Part 5 A) of the *Catalog of Copyright Entries*, published semi-annually by the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress.

The *Published Music* catalog is believed to be the most comprehensive list of current music issued anywhere in the world today. The first issue to contain the classified index is Vol. 2, No. 2, of the Third Series, covering the registrations of July-December 1948. This one number lists over 7,000 pieces of music published in the United States and abroad and registered for copyright in this country during the latter half of last year. The classified index, however, also includes references to the music listed in the January-June 1948 issue.

The addition of the classified index is intended to meet the needs of persons who are searching for music for performance, or of special subject content or national characteristics. It was prepared under the supervision of Sam Bass Warner, Register of Copyrights. Some 270 headings group

such types as piano music, popular songs, dance orchestrations, juvenile music, Negro spirituals, and music from Australia, Sweden, etc.

Other features of the *Published Music* catalog include an entry for each composition arranged alphabetically under the name of the composer or other person mainly responsible for the work, with necessary added entries in the same alphabet for the names of lyricist, arranger, and editor; information concerning the publisher, place and date of publication, copyright claimant, and registration number for each piece; and an index by title.

The *Published Music* catalog is now available from the Copyright Office, the Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C., at a price of \$1.50 for each semi-annual issue.

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## LIBRARIES IN VENEZUELA

CECILIA OSPINA

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In the 16th century in Caracas were two monasteries, and to the monks of these monasteries we owe the first importations of books to Venezuela. After the foundation of these monasteries, San Jacinto and San Francisco, was built the Seminario Tridentino in 1698, and in it grew a library, rich in ascetic works and vellums, some of them dating from the 15th century. Richer than the libraries of the monasteries, the library of the Seminario Tridentino owned a collection of ancient classics and many works of American history. The Library of the Oratorio de San Felipe de Neri was also an important library of this time. These were the only libraries accounted for in the Colony. They had a semi-official character, though the government never took care of their development.

Among the most important private libraries supplied secretly with books brought from foreign countries can be mentioned the libraries of Rescio, Yanes, Espejo Sanz, Blandin; the libraries of the priests Lindo, Mentenegro, Maya, Sierra, Escalona, Quintana, the Uztariz brothers' library from the valley of Aragua, and the Penalver's in the city of Valencia. These libraries were the only ones that Humboldt could consult when he was in Caracas in 1799 to 1800. Almost all the works of the Spanish writers were in these libraries. Some rare editions have been saved from these revolutionary days.

The establishment of a public library was first mentioned at the time of the Revolution of 1810. It was natural to develop interest in the

\*Student, L. S. U. Library School, 1941-42 and 1949-50.

creation of educational centers at that time since revolutions always bring changes.

In 1811, the provisional government of Roscio, Blandin and Tovar published the description of a project for the establishment of a public library, as follows:

"Scheme for a public library in the city of Caracas: If the low level of general learning retards our civil regeneration, it seems unnecessary to demonstrate the utility of such an institution. Everybody realizes it, everybody wishes for the library, and that is why we hope that everyone will contribute to the accomplishment of such a praiseworthy and necessary project. It seems that it could be accomplished under the following plan:

"The inhabitants of Caracas have demonstrated their courage with the sacrifice of their own lives, their well being and comfort, in accomplishing the consolidation under the resolution of April 19. Everybody must learn to serve the country, therefore nobody should refuse to subscribe to the establishment of a library as a means of extending knowledge.

"For the earliest realization of the project, the easiest way to accomplish the establishment of a library is by the contribution of 50 pesos for the first year and 10 pesos per annum thereafter by each subscriber. One librarian will be enough to start with. The persons who subscribe whether in books or money, will form a society of Bibliographic Shareholders. No gifts will be refused: on the contrary they will be appreciated since with them, or without them, every citizen will have the right to enjoy the services of the Institution.

"Those persons who are able to give a larger mount up to 500 pesos in books or money, will be named Protectors of the Institution, forming the Executive Board; and will have the right to select the employees of the

library.

"The Bibliographic Shareholders and the Protectors of the Institution will have the right to attend the reading of the public documents of Europe which reading will be held in a distant room from the library in order that the meeting will not disturb the readers.

"All citizens of all social classes, will have the right to frequent the library every day from 8 a. m. to 2 p. m. with the exception of Sundays, Thursdays, and holidays. No person will be admitted with a wrap. To everyone the library will furnish inkstand, writing pen and paper.

"The one who is proposing this project offers a contribution of 1,000 volumes of selected works on sciences and literature in the most common languages of Europe.

"The people who would like to subscribe should do so in accordance with the directions already given, sending the donations to the State Secretary. Signed, Roscio."

Probably this project of Roscio's is the first idea for the establishment of a public library in Spanish America. About this time, however, the Revolution started and eleven years of war were enough to destroy all private libraries. The war continued until 1821, when the Spanish government abandoned Caracas. This was the time to get ahead with the project of Roscio, but Bolivar's stay in Caracas was so short that there was not enough time to reorganize the Republic and nobody concerned themselves with the formation of a national library.

Nevertheless the great men of Venezuela always had in mind the idea of the development and maintenance of libraries. Some evidence for this is General Miranda's testament signed in 1804, in which he left his rich library in his home in London to the University of Caracas. Also the Liberator, Simon Bolivar in 1830, in his



will left his books to the same institution.

In 1827 there were in Caracas the libraries of the monasteries and the small one of the University. The two special gifts donated by the Liberator Simon Bolivar and by General Miranda enriched the collection of the library of the university. Some of the works donated by Bolivar had belonged to the library of Napoleon Bonaparte and these works had been a present to Bolivar from Sir Robert Wilson, while the gift of Miranda consisted of works from the ancient classics.

In 1833 the Vice-president of Venezuela tried to pass a law to create the national library. This law would have required all books that belonged to departments and offices of the government, to the monasteries, and to the public schools and the university, to be collected together in one place. This law, however, was not passed by the national legislature; but all the books in government offices were collected and placed in one of the offices of the government house.

From 1831 to 1838 all the governors of Venezuela promoted the organization of a national library. Finally, in 1838 was created the Direccion General de Instruccion Publica, which department was installed on the second floor of the Monastery of San Francisco. The first thought of this department after its establishment was to acquire the book collection of the government, and with it, and other collections, to create a library.

At the end of 1839 a group of illustrious young men of Caracas had the idea of establishing a society for the purpose of founding a national library. The society was called the Liceo Venezolano. This society was formed by writers, university students and leading people from Colombia and Venezuela.

By 1840, the Liceo Venezolano had some books and some book stacks.

The head of the society informed the government of the society's purpose to organize the National Library. In the Memoria of the Interior for 1841, the Minister Quintere informed the Congress that the Liceo Venezolano had made a gift to the Government of 2,000 volumes and 2,000 pesos in money, and requested the Congress to establish the National Library and a budget to pay a librarian. No attention was paid to the recommendation but the young men that formed the Liceo Venezolano did not abandon their project.

In 1843, the Government authorized the Society to spend the money received for the purchase of books and to open for library to the public, every day for two hours, under the supervision of one of their members and advised them to be responsible for any lost books and for any damages to the furniture and equipment.

From 1844 until 1849 the founders of the National Library had many difficulties in their efforts to establish the institution. The National Library was not a reality until 1850 when the government of General Jose Tadeo Monagas issued the decree of 1833 and placed the national library under the supervision of the University and the Office of Education and located it in the Colegio de la Independencia. For the first time the government appointed a librarian with a monthly salary of fifty pesos and an assistant with twenty-five pesos monthly.

In 1852 the national library was moved by the government to the second floor of the Monastery of San Francisco.

In 1868 and 1869 Dr. J. Alvarez de Peralta and General Arismendi Brito presented their private libraries to the National Library. Dr. Felipe Larrazabal also made a gift of his collection, and earlier Dr. Jose Vargas had donated his library.

After the victory of the Revolution

of 1870, General Antonio Guzman Blanco appointed as librarian of the National Library, Dr. Adolf Ernst and requested him to proceed with the organization of the library.

It was in 1874, that the constitutional government, presided over by General Guzman Blanco, issued a decree directing that the library of the university, that of the old Seminario Tridentino, the libraries of the monasteries and all books that were public property and not of special use to the offices of the government be gathered together as the property of the National Library.

For many years the National Library functioned on the second floor of the Central University but the public frequenting the library each day were very few in number.

Finally the National Library was separated from the university but no building was given for this purpose. the library then started its series of peregrinations and the collection of books was taken from one place to another. This pilgrimage lasted many years, and many books were damaged and books of great value were lost.

In 1910 by order of the president of the Republic, General Juan Vicente Gomez, a building of its own was constructed for the National Library. The building is situated to one side of the Central University having in front of it the National Capitol.

It is very interesting to observe the changes in the library since 1841 when the library had only 2,000 volumes and a budget of 2,000 pesos.

In the Memoria de Educacion Nacional for 1937 a report made by the Direccion de Cultura y Bellas Artes shows that the National Library owned 50,000 volumes and had a budget of 127,880 bolivars divided in two parts: 107,880 bolivars for the maintenance of the building and employees of which there were 22, and 20,000 bolivars for the purchase of books.

In 1948, the collection including books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, etc. was 200,000 volumes. The budget was 473,400 bolivars and the personnel numbered 69 full time employees.

The circulation of books for the year 1936 was approximately 29,800. In 1943, 38,841 books were circulated in 1948, 88,941.

In 1938 a cataloging department was organized and with it began the systematic cataloging of the material. Since that time to the present year there have been made 750,000 catalog cards, consisting of entries for authors, translators, editors, titles, etc. In 1939 Miss Annita Ker, now Mrs. Johnson, came from the Library of Congress, Washington D. C. She directed the work of the cataloging department, and at the same time started a library science course for the employees of the library and workers from other libraries.

Other American librarians have spent time in the cataloging department and have trained personnel in cataloging and in other subjects of library science. This has contributed to the development and better organization of Venezuelan libraries.

Since 1937 to date, the direction of the library has been in charge of Sr. Enrique Planchart, and undoubtedly it is due to his initiative that the library has made its greatest progress in these years. His biggest ambition is to see a new building for the library, with all the new developments of American libraries provided for so it can render the best service not only to the adults but also the young people that increasingly frequent the library.

During the last ten years a great effort has been made to establish new libraries all over the country. There is now a public library in almost every one of the twenty states that form the United States of Venezuela. The interest in library development

is increasing and it is an exception not to find a library in each one of the educational centers of the country, with books cataloged and classified by Dewey or by some other system of classification. There are also special libraries in some of the offices of the government, that are rendering good service to everyone using them.

The hope for the future is that a library school can be established where those interested in working in libraries can be fully trained. At the present there is the beginning of such a school at the Central University with courses taught in classification and cataloging, and bibliography.

Sources: Origenes Venzolanos de Aristides Rojas, *Boletines de la Biblioteca Nacional*, 1924-36, and *Memoria de Educacion Nacional*, 1937-48.

## GLIMPSES OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

MARIA LUISA MONTEIRO DA CUNHA

Professor of Cataloging, Library School, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Those of us who work in libraries and whose work is the selection and purchase of books are faced with a great responsibility. There is no more arduous task, and at the same time exacting, than that of choosing the best or the most essential among the incalculable number of publications at our disposal today.

The values of selection together with many other questions, are bound to arise as libraries develop and their scope becomes greater and more complex. Since the end of the 19th century, librarians have been conscious of the need for more ample intercourse with their colleagues in other similar institutions. There have arisen in consequence professional associations, and congresses and meetings have been held.

In the vanguard of these activities, we see North American librarians, unsparing in their efforts to spread their efficient technical and administrative methods in the countries more backward in library science. They have sent their technicians to organize or reorganize libraries in other countries or have given scholarships which permitted colleagues of other nationalities to have a period of study and practical experience in North American universities and libraries.

Brazil was the first South American country to benefit, thanks to the scholarship given in 1931 to D. Adelpha S. R. de Figueiredo, a name deeply respected in our library circles, one of the founders of the first library school in Brazil.

The Municipal Library of Sao Paulo whose efficiency is well known not only in Brazil but also in other countries, we owe in part to the North American people, clear seeing that it was in the United States that Rubens Borba de Moraes, our former director, acquired a great part of the technical knowledge that was given to the organization of this great cultural center.

In 1942 two scholarships were given respectively to Mr. Francisco Jose de Azevedo and Miss Maria Leonor Voigtlander. On their return from Louisiana after a year of study, these two librarians were able to organize the circulating section and the reference service of our municipal library.

In 1945 another scholarship, this time to France, was given to Miss Maria Eugenia Franco who is the librarian responsible for the organization of our collection of fine arts.

The sixth scholarship given to a municipal librarian of Sao Paulo, was graciously offered me by the Ameri-

can Library Association for the academic year 1946-47. During that academic year in Columbia University (N. Y.), and especially in the first Assembly of Librarians of the Americas and in the Annual Convention of the A. L. A. in San Francisco, at which I attended in the honoured position of a Brazilian delegate, I felt in the United States an atmosphere of enthusiasm, of faith in the future that added to my earnest desire to collaborate as much as possible in the great work of development of librarianship and library schools in Brazil.

In the field of libraries and library service, Sao Paulo has already achieved a high level of efficiency. Besides the municipal library which is a fine institution not only because of its architecture but also on account of its technical organization, Sao Paulo has several special libraries among which is a well organized children's library.

#### THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

The municipal library was founded on the 25th of February 1925. In 1941 the Library moved to the new building planned by Dr. Rubens Borba de Moraes. The work is organized and distributed as follows:

1. Director: Dr. Sergio Milliet da Costade Silva.
2. Administrative Assistant: Mr. Antonio D'Elia.
3. Order and Accessioning: Mr. Ox Pascoal.
4. Cataloging and Classification: D. Adelpha S. R. de Figueiredo.
5. Newspaper and Periodicals: Mr. Renato Snell.
6. Maps, Fine Arts, and Rare Books: Miss Afra de Lima.
7. Circulation of Books: Mr. Francisco Jose de Azevedo.

There are ever increasing special activities such as the microfilm under the care of Mrs. Elsa Moraes Barros Kyrillos; the reference work under

the supervision of Miss Maria Leonor Voigtlander; research by Mrs. Diva Lennon; revision and technical orientation under Mrs. Noemia Lentino, Mrs. Maria Luisa Monteiro da Cunha, and Miss Noemi do Val Penteado; reader's guidance on the use of the catalog, under Miss Solange B. Azzi; rare books under the care of Mrs. Erina Vieira.

When the Library moved to the new building the whole collection was recataloged. The main catalog is classified according to D. C. Special collections as maps, fine arts and rare books, the reference collection, and the circulation section have dictionary catalogs.

Mr. Francisco Jose de Azevedo, one of the head librarians, has planned the organization of a system of popular branch libraries to be opened in the various districts of the City. This will meet the needs of readers who live in the industrial and suburban districts far from the center of the city.

Collaboration with other South and Latin American libraries as well as with European libraries and most specially with libraries of the United States, has contributed to the improvement of our technical development.

We are glad to say that the work planned and begun under the capable direction of Dr. Rubens Borba de Moraes in the Sao Paulo Municipal Library is going on most successfully under his successor, the present director of the Municipal Library, Dr. Sergio Milliet da Costa e Silva. One of the major contributions of Dr. Milliet to the diffusion of modern library techniques in Brazil is the publication of the "Boletim Bibliografico" of the Municipal Library. Besides original contributions in all fields of knowledge, this quarterly publication lists all books which are catalogued and classified in the library within the period covered.



**SPECIAL LIBRARIES**

In the field of Special Libraries Sao Paulo has many: the Library of the Instituto Butantan directed by D. Josepha Novaes Fontes; the Library of the Industria Animal under the direction of Miss Guiomar Carvalho Franco; the Library of the Cement Portland Company under the care of Miss Maria Antonietta Ferraz and Miss Tereza Dalmacio; the Library of the Instituto da Leprea, directed by Miss Luiza Keffer; the Central Library of the University of Sao Paulo under the direction of Mrs. Odulia Xavier Leite; the Library of the Medical Faculty directed by Mrs. Maria Jose Lessa; the Library of the State Health Department directed by Miss Luiza Fonseca; the Library of the Instituto Adolpho Lutz under the direction of Miss Olinda Hemple; the Library of the "S.E.S.I." under the care of Mrs. Nair Piraja; the Library of the Instituto Historico e Geografico directed by Miss Zenobia Pereira da Silva.

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

In 1933 Mrs. Lenyra Fraccaroli organized Sao Paulo's first school library. At present this library is under the capable direction of Miss Iracema Silveira and represents one of our best enterprises in the field of library work for children. It belongs to the Instituto Caetano de Campos, and educational establishment maintained by the government.

Almost all public schools and gymnasiums of Sao Paulo have collections of books to supplement the curriculum. Annual prizes are conferred on the school library which proves to be most helpful and has the highest number of readers.

**CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES**

In 1935 the first children's library was founded of which Mrs. Lenyra Fraccaroli was appointed director. This library has a branch in one of our suburban districts and is now organizing two others.

**LIBRARY SCHOOLS**

An enterprise which contributed to the development of library service in Sao Paulo and later throughout Brazil, was the organization of the Library School of Sao Paulo founded in 1936 by the Municipal Court of Sao Paulo according to the municipal act number 1146. In 1939 the library school was closed to be reopened in 1940, this time as an extended course of studies of the "Escola Livre de Sociologia e Politica de Sao Paulo." The admission to the library school requires a pre-examination in French, English, general knowledge, type-writing, besides the gymnasium certificate and at least one year of college.

More than 300 librarians have already received their degrees from this library school. Of those some have organized library schools in other cities as well as in other states of Brazil. Founded by former students of the Library School of Sao Paulo we have at present: the Library School of Campinas; that organized in 1944 at the "Faculdade de Filosofia Sedes Sapientiae" which belongs to the Catholic University; the library school founded in 1948 at the "Colegio Nossa Senhora de Siao" another catholic school; the course for the professional training of librarians organized in Bahia; and a course for library training for primary school teachers which began in March of this year; the library course founded in 1948 in Porto Alegre in the State of Rio Grande do Sul; of Recife, in the State of Pernambuco.

**PAULISTA ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIANS**

The "Associacao Paulista de Bibliotecarios" was founded in 1936 by Miss Guiomar Carvalho Franco in collaboration with Dr. Rubens Borba de Moraes. In spite of the difficulties all newly-born institutions have to face in our country, this association which is still self-supporting, has been

one of our greatest accomplishments in the library field. A quarterly prize is conferred for the best technical work produced in that period and an annual prize is given to the major publication. Monthly meetings are

held in which subjects of professional interest are discussed. The association promotes conferences, special meetings, and takes all necessary steps towards the improvement of library accomplishment in Brazil.

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Edited by

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

Edited by

MATTIE SUE MOUNCE

Assistant Reference Librarian, Louisiana State Library

Eugene Watson, librarian of Northwestern State College, worked on his Ph. D. in English at the University of Texas during the summer. Warren Tracy was acting librarian in the absence of Mr. Watson. Mary Alice Peairs, formerly on the staff of Northwestern, left in the spring to accept a position at Santa Barbara College, California. Mrs. Ora Williams is now circulation librarian at Northwestern.

New staff members of the New Orleans Public Library include Dorothy Tugel, LSU Library School, 1949, and Mrs. Ellen R. Tilger, University of Illinois Library School, at the information desk. Mrs. Tilger has been doing branch library work on a part-time basis, but now is working full-time, and is at present revising the federal documents collection. Carol Atkins, S. L. I., 1949, has joined the circulation-registration staff at the

main library, and Ruthlyn Austin, Mississippi State College, 1949, has been appointed assistant at the Napoleon Branch. Mrs. Celia C. Moore, graduate of the University of Oklahoma Library School, is now in charge of the LaHache Music Library at the Latter Branch, replacing Frances Guidry. Mrs. Ollie M. Fiegenschue has joined the staff of the librarian's office. Helen Warren, librarian of Jesuits High School, spent part of the summer as substitute at the main library and branches.

According to John Hall Jacobs, librarian, the newest department of the New Orleans Public Library is the LaHache Music Library, on the second floor of the Milton H. Latter Memorial Library. The library, which is equipped with two listening rooms and approximately 2,500 phonograph records for circulation, was made pos-



sible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. V. Martinez. Theodore Von LaHache, prominent musician of 19th century New Orleans, was Mr. Martinez's grandfather, and as a memorial to him. Mr. and Mrs. Martinez donated \$5,000 to establish the library, with the assurance of additional funds. Many other gifts have been received, and the collection has been well patronized since its opening on May 29th.

The seventeen summer reading clubs of New Orleans Public Library totaled a membership of 10,572 boys and girls, while 7,219 received reading certificates.

An interesting experiment of the New Orleans Main Library and the Gentilly Branch is the use of paper-bound "pocket book" editions of popular titles. A minimum amount of preparation is done on each volume. Initial response has been successful, with favorable patron comment, and orders have been placed for additional titles.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Marsh, formerly cataloger at Tulane University Medical School Library, is now librarian of the Medical School of the University of Arkansas.

Florien McKnight, librarian of Esso Standard Oil Library, Baton Rouge, attended the convention of the Special Libraries Association in Los Angeles in June.

Peggy Harper, library assistant, LSU Law School, Janet Riley, librarian of the Loyola University Law School, C. Vernet Grimes, Law Librarian, Southern University and Es-sae M. Culver, State Librarian, attended the joint conventions of the American Association of Law Libraries and the National Association of State Libraries held in Detroit in June.

Mildred Benton, Chief of the Division of Field Library Services of the Department of Agriculture Library, was welcomed by her many New Or-

leans friends on a recent visit to that city.

Ethel Mae Saucier is now librarian of the Humble Oil Company in Houston. She was formerly assistant librarian at Charity Hospital School of Nursing, on the staff of the L. S. U. Medical School Library. Miss Saucier has been succeeded in that position by Carmelita Addamus, who has taught at Metairie Country Day School, and more recently has been associated with the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Mary Louise Goodwin, formerly librarian of Tangipahoa Parish Library, is the new reference librarian at Loyola University. Mrs. Maude Catha is acting librarian at the Tangipahoa Parish Library.

Mrs. Charles Blum, the former Ruth Steidtmann, has resigned her position as head cataloger at Loyola, to move to Beaumont, Texas.

Robert M. Trent, formerly Chief of Technical Processes, LSU Library, became Director of Libraries at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, on September 1. Mrs. Trent was order librarian at Louisiana State Library.

Odette Dolhonde, who has been librarian at Charity Hospital, has entered the order of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Harriet Landry succeeds Verne Purcell as order librarian at Loyola University. Miss Landry was formerly on the staff of Tulane University. Miss Purcell has returned to Illinois where she is employed on a newspaper in Bement.

Mrs. Lucille W. Woodson of the Research Center Library of the Waterways Experiment Station at Vicksburg, Mississippi, visited most of the special libraries in New Orleans while a student at the summer session of the L.S.U. Library School.

Mrs. Ella Lee Faulk, librarian, Jennings Public Library, reports that certificates were awarded to 187 boys

and girls who took part in the vacation reading club during the summer.

Two members of the L.S.U. Library School class of 1949 have joined the staff of the *Ouachita Parish Public Library*. They are *Martha Ann Scott*, assistant librarian, and *Margie Lynch*, librarian of the *West Monroe Branch*. *Frances Flanders*, librarian, reports that the weekly story hours held at Monroe and West Monroe branches during the summer proved so popular that it has been decided to continue them during the winter months. Miss Flanders also states that the five ceiling projectors and one hundred and eighty-one books owned by the library have been used extensively during the summer.

*Catherine O'Toole* of *Shreveport*, a 1949 graduate of L. S. U. Library School, is the new librarian of *Pointe Coupee Parish Library*.

*Mrs. Max Schenker*, librarian, tells of the tenth birthday celebration of the *East Baton Rouge Parish Library* on September 15th. "We had three birthday cakes, flowers, and a little extra flurry of publicity," says Mrs. Schenker. "Note was made that 2,380,517 books, or over 237 miles of books had been circulated in the ten year period. The book collection has grown from 3,600 to over 63,000, and the library now has six branches and a bookmobile." *Marjorie Stanton*, L.S.U. 1949, has been appointed bookmobile librarian, while *Caroline Nelson* is also a new assistant at *East Baton Rouge*.

*Edith Peterson* succeeds *Kay Werner* as librarian of the *Lafourche Parish Library*. Miss Werner has a position in the audio-visual department of the *Detroit Public Library*.

*Shreve Memorial Library* opened its sixth branch in its expansion program in August in the *Caddo Heights* community. *Mrs. Augusta Hall* was transferred from the *Cedar Grove*

*Branch* to be the librarian of the new branch. *Mrs. Charlotte Edwards* from *Pomona, California*, is the new librarian of the *Cedar Grove Branch*. *Jewell Moore* has resigned as supervisor of city branches and is succeeded by *Martha Prommel* who came to *Shreveport* from the *Denver Public Library*. *Mrs. Jo Fant* is the new assistant in the *Caddo Parish Extension* of *Shreve*. *Betty Lynn Harrell*, who was a member of the *Shreve* secretarial staff and was in charge of publicity, has resigned to attend *Centenary College* this fall.

*Marjorie Tubre*, L.S.U., 1949, is now on the staff of *Rapides Parish Library*. *Mrs. Geraldine Gerami* has replaced *Betty Weeks* as secretary of *Rapides Parish Library*.

*Ruth Clark*, librarian of *Lake Charles High School*, has been appointed president of the *Lake Charles Teachers Association* for the present school year.

*Genevra Washburn*, librarian of *Neville High School, Monroe*, worked in the reference department of *L.S.U. Library* during the summer.

*J. Vernon Jordan*, a 1949 graduate of *Northwestern State College*, is an assistant in the circulation department of *L.S.U. Library*.

*Mrs. Ann S. Cross*, a 1949 graduate of *Northwestern State College*, is librarian at the new *Springhill Grammar School*.

*Lola Cooper*, formerly school librarian at *Vivian High School*, joined the staff of *East Baton Rouge Library* during the summer. She has been replaced at *Vivian* by *Maxine Squyres*, a graduate of *Northwestern State College*.

*Katherine Heniford* has resigned from the *Northwestern State College Library* and has returned to *North Carolina* to be married.

*Julia Duke*, 1949, L. S. U. Library School, is circulation librarian at *Northwestern State College*.

*Clyde Miller*, formerly an assistant

of the staff of *Rapides Parish Library*, is now attending library school at the *University of North Carolina*.

Mrs. Bernice Evans, graduate of *Northwestern State College*, is now librarian of the *Boyce High School*.

Lily B. Sylvester, on the staff of *Alexandria Public Library* since 1911, has now retired from library work and is making her home at 1016 Sixth Street, Alexandria.

Robbie Crane, former librarian of *Fair Park High School, Shreveport*, is now librarian at the new *Lake Shore Junior High School* in *Shreveport*.

Mrs. Ferne S. Turner, who has been on the staff of *Louisiana State Library* in the Extension Department, is now librarian at *Fair Park High School*.

Elizabeth Elston, 1949 graduate of *L.S.U. Library School*, is librarian at the new *Broadmoor Junior High School, Shreveport*.

Helen Dykes, librarian, *Washington Parish Library*, reports a very successful summer reading program. Three hundred boys and girls participated in the program, the theme of which was "Keep Louisiana Green." The local paper mill officials cooperated by entertaining the group with a picnic in the hand-planted forest near *Bogalusa*. A fire control demonstration and a brief talk on the planting and care of pine trees were given.

*Loyola University* announces that its new university library building is nearing completion and will be open for use by the end of this year. It will merge the present main library with the Dental School Library, the College of Pharmacy Library, and the departmental libraries of chemistry, physics, and medical technology. The building's modern air conditioning system is said to be the best in the city, including a new kind of humidity control especially suited to the needs of books. James W. Dyson is librarian.

*Louisiana State Library* has opened two demonstrations this year, with

a third to open in November. On May 21 the *Avoyelles Parish Library Demonstration* with headquarters in *Marksville* was opened. Murrell C. Wellman is librarian, and Dorothy Poche of *Baton Rouge* is assistant librarian. She has the following staff: Mrs. C. B. Husbands, *Harrisonburg*; Mrs. Allena H. Stafford and Lula Roton, bookmobile; Mrs. C. C. Wilson, *Jonesville*; and Mrs. C. F. Smith, *Sicily Island*. Mrs. Bertha Hellum who has been in county library work in *California* for a number of years will be librarian of the *Jefferson Parish Library Demonstration* to open in November. Mrs. Hellum is a graduate of the library school of the *University of California*. Also on the staff of *Jefferson* will be C. H. Harris, *L.S.U.*; Charles Daniel, *University of Illinois Library School*; and Emily Reed, a graduate of the *University of Michigan Library School*.

On June 7 *Tangipahoa Parish Library* renewed its tax with an increase to two mills.

A \$400,000 bond issue for construction and equipment of a new building was recently voted for the *Carnegie Library of Lake Charles*. Jane Dawkins, a 1949 graduate of *L.S.U. Library School*, is the new librarian.

Mrs. Blanche Long, a graduate of *L.S.U. Library School* is on the staff of *Louisiana State Library*, dividing her time between reference and circulation duties. Kathryn McCurley, *Mississippi State College for Women*, 1949, is circulation assistant at the *State Library*. Dorothy Bass, formerly order librarian in the Extension Division of the *State Library*, is now librarian of *Patterson High School*.

The annual meeting of parish librarians was held at the *State Library* on September 23-24 with 32 in attendance. All parish libraries except two were represented. On Friday night a dinner was held for the group at the *Tropicana*. In addition to the parish group, members of the staffs of the *State Library* and the *L.S.U.*



*Library School* attended the dinner.

*Hilda Fuller*, senior reference librarian at L.S.U. was married in September to *Louis Ferraro* of the L.S.U. Music School.

*Kate Wallach*, formerly of the University of North Carolina Law Library, has been appointed law librarian and lecturer on legal bibliography at the *L.S.U. Law School*. Miss Wallach has a broad background of civil and common law training and experience and has been associated with the Yale Law School and the University of Michigan Law Library. Born in Krefeld, Germany, Miss Wallach received her J.D. degree at the University of Cologne, and passed the bar examinations in Berlin. After coming to the United States in 1938, she obtained her LL.B degree at the University of Wisconsin, and continued

at the University of Michigan where she received her A. B. and library science degrees. From 1943 to 1946 Miss Wallach served as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, and later in international law research for the Civil Affairs Division of the War Crimes Commission.

*Erica* and *Ileana Johannsen* from the Biblioteca del Escuela de Salubridad, Santiago, Chile are interning under Miss Marshall at Tulane Medical Library, New Orleans. They arrived in Baton Rouge about the middle of August and spent the first month at L.S.U. taking the English course for Spanish students. They will be at the Tulane Medical Library until after the Christmas holidays when they will go to Vanderbilt and from there to other medical libraries in the mid-west and east.

### SOUTHWESTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

New Orleans, Louisiana Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 1948

The Southwestern Library Association met in New Orleans, October 31-November 3, 1948, for its 12th biennial conference. Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Librarian of the New Orleans Public Library and President of the Association for the 1947-48 biennium, presided over the General Sessions, which featured Dr. Harold Stoke, President of Louisiana State University; Father Vern Swartsfager, President of *Kids' World*, Dallas, Texas; and Prof. John T. Frederick of Notre Dame University.

The Conference was attended by 321 registrants from Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, and author guests Roark Bradford, Dr. Hewitt Ballowe, and Arthemise Goertz were present.

Miss Helen Ridway, Public Library Specialist of the American Library Association, was present to report on the results of her 1948 visits to the states comprising the Southwestern.

Mr. Francis R. St. John, Director of the Veterans Administration Library Service, was a guest speaker on the Veterans Administration Program; and Miss Nora Beust, from the U. S. Office of Education, and Miss Helen Ferris, Editor of the Junior Literary Guild, were featured speakers at the Young People's Section meeting. Mr. William H. Carlson, Director of Libraries, Oregon State System of Higher Education, probably took the record for having come the longest distance to participate in the program. He was guest speaker at the College and Reference Section's luncheon meeting at Arnaud's.

Of more than usual interest to librarians everywhere is the Resolution adopted by the entire membership of the Southwestern Library Association present in New Orleans:

"We implicitly believe, with all librarians, that our unregimented libraries are a bulwark of a dem-



ocratic contemporary society of free men and women, for they provide the full information which is the basis of that society; Now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we reaffirm and state our steadfast belief in freedom of expression, freedom of acquisition for library collections, and freedom of access to libraries by all people, because these are irreducible factors of a free society."

A post conference clinic on library demonstrations was arranged by Miss Sallie Farrell, Field Worker for the Louisiana State Library, and was attended by some 50 librarians who remained in New Orleans an additional day in order to make a tour of the Lafourche Parish Library as guests of the Louisiana State Library. Mrs. Gretchen K. Schenk spoke at the clinic on "Trends in Regional Library Development", and Miss Irene Mason, Arkansas State Library Commission, reported on "Progress in Arkansas" in library extension. Various members of the staff of the Louisiana State Library described the organization and development of the demonstration libraries in Louisiana.

Miss Essae M. Culver, Louisiana State Librarian, was general program chairman for the entire conference.

Officers elected for the 1949-50 biennium:

President: Mrs. Helen S. Farrington, Librarian, El Paso, Texas, Public Library; 1st Vice-President: Mr. Edmon Low, Librarian, Oklahoma A. & M. College; 2nd Vice-President: Mr. Arthur McAnally, Librarian, University of New Mexico; Secretary: Miss Bess Vaughn, Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana; Treasurer: Mr. Marvin Miller, Librarian, University of Arkansas.

—Patricia Paylore, Secretary, Southwestern Library Asso.

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